

(1) Number of Pages.....6

(2) Date of repair.....18.5.67

(3) Initials of the Referencer.....P.S.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE**GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS***Revenue***DEPARTMENT**

G.O. No.	126	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	19 3 74	196 . .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Read the following letters:—

No. 324. From Major J. VERTUE, R.E., District Engineer, Trichinopoly, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Camp at Trichinopoly, 16th October 1873, No. 350.

I HAVE the honour to report the following circumstances connected with the Deputy Collector's Cutcherry and Sub-jail at Arcalore, which, during a recent inspection of the buildings, came to my notice.

2. Rupees 2,940 and Rupees 8,540 were sanctioned for the works in G.Os., No. 2,197, of 9th July 1868, and No. 2,475 of 28th July 1869, respectively. The works were commenced departmentally on the 1st and 16th May 1869, and stopped on 1st September 1869, when the total amounts spent were Rupees 687-1-5 and Rupees 778-9-6, respectively.

3. The works were re-commenced in June 1873 under a contractor, of whom more hereafter.

4. On my arrival at Arcalore, the Supervisor in charge of the range pointed out that, in the foundations (the only work completed) of the Deputy Collector's Cutcherry, there were sundry longitudinal cracks visible on the top of the walls, also other signs of settlement. He also pointed out that the foundations had been laid in *made soil*. I, therefore, made an examination of the foundations in five or six different places, and found that the only portion sunk in the natural soil was 1'—1½' of dry rubble, the interstices filled with chunam screenings. The 4' of masonry built over this had therefore actually been built on the ground, and even now, with soil filled round it so as to bring the sloping ground to something like a level, much of the foundation is still above ground, and, indeed, any one looking at it would take the upper part of the foundation (a footing occurs at half the depth) for the basement.

5. As it would be madness to build on such a foundation, the bricks of which are bad, and the site is inferior, being the lowest point of the ground, I have condemned the whole work, and ordered the Cutcherry to be placed on higher ground.

6. I have now the honour to request that revised estimates for the Cutcherry and jail, as now submitted, be passed.

7. The extra amount required for the Cutcherry is Rupees 1,160; but, owing to the hospital-shed being not now required, there is a saving on the original sanction of Rupees 90, making the total extra amount required Rs. 1,070.

8. As regards rates nothing has been altered, but the rate for brick-in-chunam, which, as will be now shown, is most inadequate.

9. In the original estimate the rate allowed was Rupees 2-2 per cubic foot, providing for carriage from the Marthiyar river, two miles distant. The bricks made there are utterly useless. A large heap now lies in the chunam compound; it has been rejected by the Supervisor, and very properly, as the bricks can be crushed by the heel of the foot with the greatest ease.

10. The Supervisor estimates that about twenty places within a radius of five miles from the site of the proposed buildings are better than those now occupied. Bricks made of the soil at these places is therefore

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nothing for it but bringing bricks from the Coleroon bank, fourteen miles distant, where there is good brick earth. Hence the enhancement of rate from Rupees 0-2-2 to Rupees 0-2-10 per cubic foot.

11. I would now observe that the construction of the sub-jail was given to a contractor by an agreement signed on the 10th March 1873, but that up to this time he has done nothing beyond collecting the bricks, now in the compound, which I have condemned. I would have taken the contract out of his

22nd April	RS.	hands, but unfortunately he has received
25th June	500	advances as per margin; the amount
	500	of Rupees 1,000 added to previous ex-
Total... 1,000		penditure, viz., Rupees 778-9-6, making
		the total expenditure on the sub-jail
		Rupees 1,778-9-6.

12. From what I have seen of the contractor, and from what I hear, I fear there is small chance that this money will be recovered. I have directed the Supervisor to report after the lapse of a reasonable time whether he has taken any steps to work out his advance.

No. 325. From Colonel E. A. FOCRD, R.E., Inspecting Engineer for Civil and Military Buildings, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Chepauk, 3rd February 1874, No. 177.

With reference to your memorandum of the 13th November 1873, No. 439, I

- 1 Letter No. 350, dated 16th October 1873, from District Engineer of Trichinopoly.
- 2 Plans.
- 2 Revised Estimates.

have the honour to state that I have received from the Assistant Engineer in charge of the Trichinopoly District two plans and a letter with some further

particulars of the work at the Deputy Collector's Cutcherry at Arealore. I do not think any more information can be obtained, as not one officer of the department who had anything to do with the work is now in the district. The Superintending Engineer, Major Oakes, is on furlough; the Executive Engineer, Captain Brockman, has been transferred to another district; the Sub-Engineer, Balasoodrum Moodelly, has been pensioned, and I cannot find the name of the Overseer, Danooooty Pillay, in the latest list of the establishment of the Public Works Department.

2. The expenditure incurred in 1869 was while C. Balasoodra Moodelly was in charge of the range. At the time of the stoppage of the work, the walls of the Deputy Collector's Cutcherry had been raised to the cement, and nothing had been done to the sub-jail.

3. When the Officiating District Engineer was re-commenced in 1873, Captain Brockman, who was employed the contractor. The security required by Section I. of Chapter XVI. was not obtained, but a formal bond (Section 1) was entered into by the contractor.

4. The Committee will show whether the Jail Com- mittee. T. Superintend- Engine by author- in the p-

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5. The Sub-Engineer and Overseer are said to have been present when the foundations were laid, and the Overseer superintended the work.

6. I am of opinion that all masonry work should be done departmentally, the materials being obtained from contractors, and the giving of advances to contractors should be strictly prohibited. When payment is promptly made for work actually done or materials actually supplied, advances are unnecessary. Advances, moreover, are almost always used by contractors for purposes quite unconnected with the work, and the recovery of advances thus becomes hopeless.

7. I have called on the Assistant Engineer to state whether any portion of the advances in this case has yet been recovered, or whether there is any probability of its being recovered.

No. 326. From the same Officer, dated Chepauk, 13th February 1874, No. 243.

In continuation of my letter No. 177, dated the 3rd instant, I have the honour to state that the District Engineer reports that the advance made to the contractor for the construction of the Deputy Collector's Cutcherry at Arealore, Trichinopoly, has not been recovered, and that there is not any probability of its being easily recovered unless the aid of the law be invoked.

No. 327. ORDER THEREON, 13th March 1874, No. 688.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 35.

UNDER the circumstances reported by the District Engineer of Trichinopoly and Inspecting Engineer for Build-

ings, and to prevent further delay with the prosecution of buildings which are very much required, and the construction of which has been in abeyance for nearly five years, His Excellency the Governor in Council is pleased to sanction the revised estimates of Rupees 4,100 for a Deputy Collector's Cutcherry and Rupees 8,450 for a sub-jail and out-offices at Arealore; the former sum including an irrecoverable outlay of Rupees 662-13-5; the latter a similar outlay of Rupees 539-3-0. These losses are chiefly attributable to the selection of bad sites and use of inferior materials by officers and subordinates now not at hand to account for the same; the Range Officer, Sub-Engineer Balasoodrum Moodelly, being chiefly responsible. He has lately retired from the department, or would otherwise have been made personally responsible for the loss incurred by the faulty foundations of the Cutcherry. Had the work been carried on in 1869, this fault of construction would doubtless have become known to the Superintending Engineer and been reported by him.

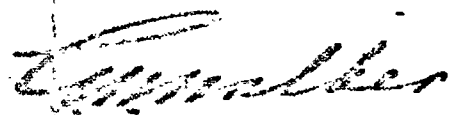
2. The late Acting District Engineer, Captain Brockman, R.E., will show cause why he should not be held personally responsible for Rupees 1,000 said to have been advanced by him to a contractor without authority, contrary to the standing orders of the department; but the present District Engineer will be none the less responsible if proper measures are adopted in communication with Captain Brockman for the recovery of the advances, and the fulfilment of the bond will be the fault of the contractor.

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3. The attention of all District Engineers and Range Officers is called to the Inspecting Engineer's remarks as to the impropriety of giving out lump contracts, a practice which has already been forbidden in G. O., No. 1,736, of 22nd July 1872 and further persistence in which, except in exceptional cases where contractors of undeniable solvency and knowledge of work are available, will render the officers concerned liable for any losses which it may involve.

(True Extract.)

 Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To District Engineers.

To the Executive Engineer, Wynaad.

„ Inspecting Engineer for Buildings.

„ Judicial Department.

„ Revenue do.

„ Financial do.

„ Officiating Controller of Public Works Accounts.

Exd. E. C.

Spare Cop

Revenue Department
No. 915

Govt. of Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

DISTRICT ENGINEER

to the

1st March 1874.

to the

G. O., 1st March 1874, No. 653

MARCH

Nos. 324-327

19/3

Deputy Collector's Cutcherry and Sub-Jail at Arealore, Trichinopoly District.—
Revised estimates of Rupees 4,100 for a Deputy Collector's Cutcherry and Rupees 8,450 for a Sub-Jail at Arealore in the Trichinopoly District sanctioned with remarks, and the attention of District Engineers called to the remarks of the Inspecting Engineer for Buildings relative to the impropriety of entering into such contracts.

No. 126

Forwarded to the
Revenue

23.3.74